

Sherman 2001-0025CIP-1

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 - 3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) A method for spoofing stations while transmitting data through a medium in an arrangement including a first station sends a Request-to-Send (RTS) message to an Access Point (AP) that includes a duration field, and a second station sends a Clear-to-Send (CTS) message that is responsive to the RTS message that also includes a duration, where the duration field defines a period of time that the medium is to be reserved to allow unimpeded transmission of data that the first station has to transmit, and where each an obeying station in the arrangement that receives either the RTS message or the CTS message, updates a Network Allocation Vector (NAV) register with the duration information obtained from the received RTS message, or from the received CTS message when a corresponding RTS message was not received, characterized by:

said NAV being updated by said receptions from other stations, including said AP and other APs, and said first station employing the NAV to inhibit transmission by said station as long as the NAV indicates that the medium is in use, and permitting resumption of transmission when the NAV indicates other than that the medium is in use register being a sole register within a station that controls duration during which the stations refrains from transmitting;

said first station setting a duration value for its RTS message to a value other than a time period for a predetermined subsequent message transmission.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein transmissions of unknown protocols are given preferential use of the medium when the transmissions by the obeying station are suppressed.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein transmissions of hidden stations are given preferential use of the medium when the transmissions by the obeying station are suppressed.

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7. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein critical transmissions are given preferential use of the medium when the transmissions by the obeying station are suppressed.

8. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein at least some of the stations are provided in an overlapping basic service set, and stations of the overlapping basic service set are given preferential use of the medium when the transmissions by the obeying station are suppressed.

9. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein stations of an enhanced version of a standard are given preferential use of the medium when the transmissions by the obeying station are suppressed.

10 - 13. (Canceled).